

What is claimed is:

1. A surface-coated cemented carbide alloy cutting tool comprising a hard coating layer and a cemented carbide alloy substrate, the hard coating layer comprising:

a Ti compound layer, as a lower layer, formed by vapor deposition having an average thickness of 0.5 to 20  $\mu\text{m}$  and comprising at least one layer chosen from among a layer of a carbide of Ti, a layer of a nitride of Ti, a layer of a carbonitride of Ti, a layer of a carboxide of Ti, and a layer of a carbonitroxide of Ti;

an aluminum oxide layer, as an intermediate layer, having an average thickness of 1 to 25  $\mu\text{m}$  and having a heat transformed  $\alpha$ -type crystal structure derived from a vapor deposited  $\kappa$ - or  $\theta$ -type aluminum oxide layer; and

an aluminum oxide layer, as an upper layer, formed by vapor deposition having an average thickness of 0.3 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$  and having an  $\alpha$ -type crystal structure;

2. A surface-coated cemented carbide alloy cutting tool according to claim 1, wherein the hard coating layer further comprising at least one layer of titanium nitride, titanium carbide or titanium carbonitride as a surface layer formed as the uppermost layer and which has an average thickness of 0.1 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

3. A surface-coated cemented carbide alloy cutting tool according to claim 2, further comprising a Ti oxide layer, which has an average thickness of 0.2 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$  and satisfies the formula:  $\text{TiO}_x$  (provided that an atomic ratio  $x$  of O to Ti is within a range from 1.2 to 1.9) as measured by an Auger electron spectroscopy at the center portion in the thickness direction, provided between an upper layer and the surface layer.

4. A surface-coated cemented carbide alloy cutting tool according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a ratio of a peak intensity of (006) plane,  $I(006)$ , to a peak intensity of (113) plane,  $I(113)$ , is 0.1 or more in an X-ray diffraction profile of the  $\alpha$ -type aluminum oxide layer of the hard coating layer.

5. A surface-coated cemented carbide alloy cutting tool according to claim 4, wherein a ratio of a peak intensity of (006) plane,  $I(006)$ , to a peak intensity of (012) plane,  $I(012)$ , is 0.1 or more in an X-ray diffraction profile of the  $\alpha$ -type aluminum oxide layer of the hard coating layer.

6. A surface-coated cemented carbide alloy cutting tool according to claim 1, wherein the aluminum oxide layer has a heat transformed  $\alpha$ -type crystal structure and has cracks therein formed during heat transformation.

7. A surface-coated cemented carbide alloy cutting tool according to claim 1, wherein the aluminum oxide layer has a heat transformed  $\alpha$ -type crystal structure and has cracks therein formed during heat transformation which are uniformly dispersed.